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IN 684019

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(N.D.)

COUNTRY LAOS/THAILAND/NORTH VIETNAM

DOI

1. CAPTURE OF AMERICAN PILOT IN XIENG KHOUANG PROVINCE
IN MID - 1970

2. OBSERVATION OF AMERICAN POW AT BAN NAKAY NEUA
PRISON CAMP IN SAM NEUA PROVINCE, REPORTED
PRESENCE OF ~~THREE~~ PRISONERS AT CAMP AND
DESCRIPTION OF PRISON CAMP

ACQ

SOURCE

APPROVED FOR RELEASE

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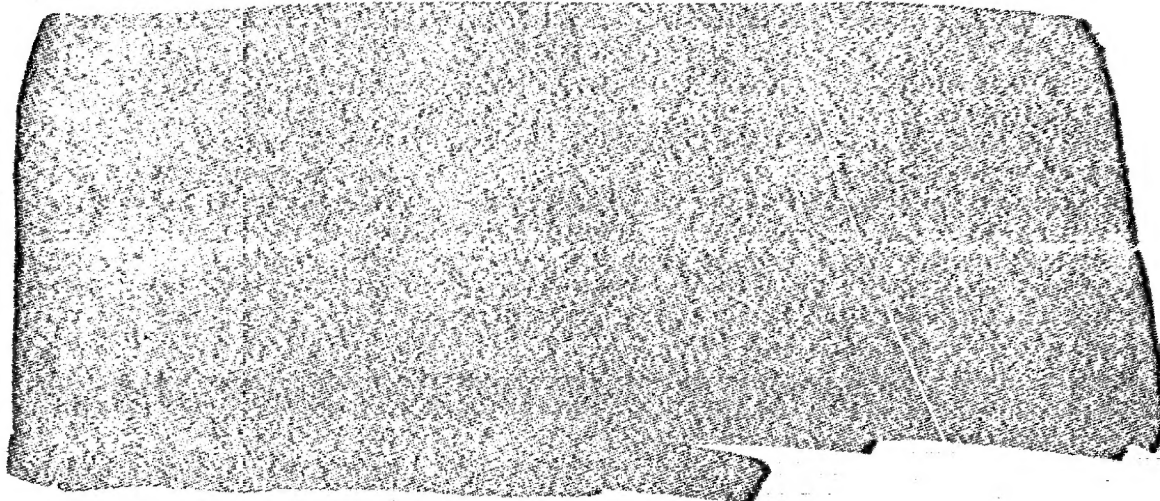
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SUMMARY. IN JULY OR AUGUST 1970 NEAR BAN-MGOUAM IN XIENG
 KHOUANG PROVINCE, [REDACTED] SAW AN UNIDENTIFIED AIRCRAFT FLYING
 LOW TRAILING SMOKE. VILLAGERS TOLD HIM LATER THAN AN AMERICAN
 PLANE HAD BEEN SHOT DOWN NEAR BAN NANANG AND THE PILOT CAPTURED.
 [REDACTED] WALKED TO BAN NANANG AND SAW THE PILOT GUARDED BY PATHET
 LAO (PL) IRREGULARS. IN APRIL 1971 [REDACTED] WAS TAKEN TO SEE THE
 BAN NAKAY NEUA PRISON CAMP WHERE HE SAW A CAUCASION MALE
 PRISONER. HE THOUGHT THIS WAS THE SAME MAN HE HAD SEEN IN 1970.
 THE ONLY OTHER PRISONERS IN THE CAMP WERE THREE [REDACTED]
 PILOTS. THE BAN NAKAY NEUA PRISON CAMP CONSISTED OF A CAVE



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AND A BARBED WIRE ENCLOSURE SITUATED AT THE BASE OF A ROCK CLIFF ABOUT 100 METERS NORTHWEST OF BAN NAKAY NEUA MARKET PLACE. THE CAMP GUARD FORCE WAS MADE UP OF SIX PL OFFICERS. ONLY PL OFFICIALS AND HIGH CIVILIAN OFFICIALS WERE PERMITTED INSIDE THE ENCLOSURE. THE PRISONERS WERE PERMITTED TO LEAVE THE PRISON COMPOUND UNDER GUARD ABOUT ONCE A WEEK FOR TWO OR THREE HOURS, USUALLY TO VISIT BAN NAKAY NEUA MARKET. PRISONERS AT THE CAMP EVENTUALLY WERE SENT TO NORTH VIETNAM. END SUMMARY.

1. IN JULY OR AUGUST 1970 AT BAN NGOUAM (UG 051671) XIENG KHOUANG PROVINCE, WHEN [REDACTED] WAS ON LEAVE FROM HIS PL UNIT, HE SAW AN UNIDENTIFIED AIRCRAFT FLYING AT LOW ALTITUDE TRAILING SMOKE. LATER THAT DAY LOCAL VILLAGERS TOLD HIM THAT A PLANE HAD BEEN SHOT DOWN AND THE AMERICAN PILOT CAPTURED NEAR BAN NANANG (UG 066698). [REDACTED] WALKED TO BAN NANANG, AND ABOUT ONE KILOMETER OUTSIDE THE VILLAGE HE SAW A CAUCASION MALE STANDING IN A RICE FIELD GUARDED BY LOCAL PL IRREGULARS. THE PRISONER'S WRISTS WERE TIED TOGETHER WITH PARACHUTE CORD. HE APPEARED TO BE UNINJURED. [REDACTED] WATCHED THIS MAN FOR ABOUT 15 MINUTES UNTIL THE PL OFFICER IN CHARGE ORDERED ALL CIVILIAN BYSTANDERS TO DISPERSE. THE PRISONER APPEARED TO BE ABOUT

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22-25 YEARS OF AGE, WAS APPROXIMATELY 6'3" TALL, HAD A SLENDER BUILD, AND HIS HAIR WAS REDDISH-BROWN, RECEDING SLIGHTLY AT THE TEMPLES. HE HAD A THIN MUSTACHE AND WAS WEARING COVERALLS OF A CAMOUFLAGE MATERIAL. [REDACTED] COMMENT: [REDACTED] IDENTIFIED PHOTO R-7W ON PAGE 341 OF JOINT PERSONNEL RECOVERY CENTER PUBLICATION OF PHOTOGRAPHS OF MISSING AND CAPTURED PERSONNEL AS CLOSELY RESEMBLING THE MAN HE HAD SEEN.) ABOUT FIVE DAYS LATER [REDACTED] HEARD FROM VILLAGERS THAT THE CAPTURED PILOT'S AIRCRAFT HAD CRASHED NEAR PHOU SAN (UG 282762) AND WAS BELIEVED TO BE AN AMERICAN F-105.

2. IN ABOUT APRIL 1971 [REDACTED] WAS SENT TO BAN NAKAY NEUA (VX 197573) IN SAM NEUA PROVINCE TO PURCHASE RICE FOR HIS UNIT. THERE HE MET AN [REDACTED], PL SERGEANT IN A PL SUPPLY UNIT ATTACHED TO THE BAN NAKAY NEUA PRISON CAMP. [REDACTED] AGREED TO SHOW [REDACTED] THE PRISON CAMP WHERE AN AMERICAN PRISONER WAS BEING HELD. LATER THAT DAY [REDACTED] AND [REDACTED] VISITED THE CAMP FOR ABOUT ONE HOUR. THEY STOOD OUTSIDE THE BARBED WIRE ENCLOSURE ABOUT 25 METERS FROM THE ENTRANCE TO A CAVE WHICH CONSTITUTED THE PRISONERS' LIVING QUARTERS. A CAUCASION MALE EMERGED FROM THE CAVE AND STOOD IN THE DOORWAY TO THE CAVE FOR [REDACTED]

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ABOUT ONE MINUTE. [REDACTED] TOLD [REDACTED] THIS WAS AN AMERICAN PILOT WHO HAD BEEN SHOT DOWN NEAR BAN NANANG ABOUT ONE YEAR EARLIER.

[REDACTED] THOUGHT HE RECOGNIZED THIS MAN AS THE PILOT HE HAD SEEN CAPTURED NEAR BAN NANANG. THE PRISONER LOOKED THE SAME EXCEPT THAT HE WAS THINNER. [REDACTED] OBSERVED THAT THE PRISONER WAS NOT BOUND AND [REDACTED] SAID THAT PRISONERS AT BAN NAKAY NEUA CAMP WERE NEVER TIED OR BOUND AS FAR AS HE KNEW. [REDACTED]

3. THE BAN NAKAY NEUA PRISON (NEAR VH 195674) CONSISTED OF A CAVE LOCATED AT THE BASE OF A ROCK CLIFF APPROXIMATELY 70 METERS HIGH ABOUT 100 METERS NORTHWEST OF BAN NAKAY NEUA MARKET PLACE AND APPROXIMATELY 100 METERS WEST OF THE MAIN ROAD FROM BAN NAKAY NEUA TO SAM NEUA TOWN. THE CAVE AREA WAS ENCLOSED BY A BARBED WIRED FENCE ABOUT TWO METERS HIGH WHICH RAN FROM THE CLIFF ABOUT FIVE METERS EACH SIDE OF THE CAVE ENTRANCE. THE ENCLOSURE WAS ABOUT 25 METERS LONG AND TEN METERS WIDE. THE GATE TO THE ENCLOSURE WAS AT THE END OF THE PRISON YARD AWAY FROM THE CAVE.

4. THE CAVE, WHERE THE PRISONERS LIVED, HAD BEEN CLOSED OFF [REDACTED]

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BY A WALL OF LOGS AND CEMENT^{NT} LEAVING A DOORWAY ABOUT TWO METERS HIGH AND ONE METER WIDE. THE DOOR TO THE CAVE WAS OPEN AND FROM WHAT [REDACTED] COULD SEE HE GUESSED THAT THE CAVE WAS ABOUT EIGHT METERS SQUARE IN SIZE. [REDACTED] SAID THE DOOR TO THE CAVE WAS LOCKED ONLY AT NIGHT BY A PADLOCK. THE INTERIOR OF THE CAVE WAS LIGHTED BY ELECTRIC LIGHTS POWERED BY A GENERATOR LOCATED OUTSIDE THE PRISON ENCLOSURE APPROXIMATELY 20 METERS FROM THE CAVE ENTRANCE. THREE SMALL WOODEN THATCH-ROOFED BUILDINGS WERE LOCATED JUST OUTSIDE THE ENCLOSURE. THE BUILDING TO THE LEFT OF THE CAVE CONTAINED THE PRISON CAMP KITCHEN. THE BUILDING ABOUT 20 METERS RIGHT OF THE CAVE ENTRANCE WAS THE GUARDS QUARTERS, AND THE CAMP LATRINE WAS SITUATED EIGHT METERS FROM THE GUARDS QUARTERS TOWARD THE CLIFF. IN FRONT OF THE KITCHEN BUILDING WAS A VEGETABLE GARDEN^{MAI} MAINTAINED BY LOCAL CIVILAI^{ANS}SN. OCCASIONALLY THE PRISONERS WERE ALLOWED TO WORK^K THERE. A SMALL DIRT ROAD LED FROM THE PRISON CAMPT TO THE MAIN ROAD.

5. THE CAMP WAS GUARDED BY SIX PL OFFICERS ARMED WITH PISTOLS WHEN ON DUTY. [REDACTED] TOLD [REDACTED] THAT OFFICERS WERE USED AS GUARDS BECAUSE PL OFFICIALS WERE AFRAID ENLISTED MEN MIGHT ABUSE OR EVEN KILL THE PRISONERS. [REDACTED] SAW TWO GUARDS ON DUTY, ONE [REDACTED]

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WALKING INSIDE THE BARBED WIRE ENCLOSURE, THE OTHER SITTING JUST OUTSIDE THE ENCLOSURE GATE. [REDACTED] TOLD [REDACTED] THAT ONLY PL OFFICERS AND HIGH CIVILIAN OFFICIALS WERE ALLOWED TO GO INSIDE THE ENCLOSURE AND THEN ONLY IF THEY HAD OFFICIAL REASONS FOR DOING SO. THEY WERE SEARCHED WHEN ENTERING AND LEAVING THE ENCLOSURE.

6. [REDACTED] TOLD [REDACTED] THAT PRISONERS WERE PERMITTED TO LEAVE THE PRISON COMPOUND UNDER GUARD ABOUT ONCE EACH WEEK FOR TWO OR THREE HOURS, USALLY TO VISIT THE BAN NAUAY NEUA MARKET. [REDACTED] SAID THAT PRISONERS WERE NOT KEPT AT THE CAMP INDEFINITELY BUT EVENTUALLY WERE MOVED TO NORTH VIETNAM. [REDACTED] DID NOT KNOW HOW LONG THE AMERICAN POW HAD BEEN AT BAN KAKAY NEUA NOR WHEN HE WAS SCHEDULED TO BE MOVED. [REDACTED] COMMENT: [REDACTED] DESCRIPTION OF BAN NAKAY NEUA PRISON GENERALLY AGREES WITH PAST REPORTING ON OTHER PRISONS WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE SECURITY MEASURES WHICH WERE MORE INTENSIVE THAN THOSE IMPOSED AT OTHER REPORTED PRISON CAMPS. ALSO IT IS UNLIKELY THAT PRISONERS WOULD BE PERMITTED TO VISIT LOCAL MARKETS.)

7. [REDACTED] DISSEM: EMBASSY, ARMATT, AIRATT AT VIENTIANE:
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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